

TWO GIRL EMPLOYEES OF WESTERN ELECTRIC IN HANDS OF CHINESE WHITE SLAVER

Over and over again the professional reformers have insisted that low wages have nothing to do with vice.

Yet John Lee Geng, Chinaman, is under arrest for pandering, and will be tried July 8 in the Desplaines street police court.

The girls in the case of the Chinaman are Hulda Diedrickson, 16, and Jennie Lehm, 19, both white, both \$6 a week employes of the Western Electric Co.

The reason that these two young white girls submitted to a yellow man, became his mistress, was their need of money. This is a horrible fact, but it ought not to be suppressed.

The girls' minds were sapped, their wills weakened in their desperate struggle to live on \$6 a week, and so at last they fell under the lure of money and rich food and decent clothes—coming from the soiled hands of a Chinaman.

If there had been white men available, the girls would have gone to them; but there was not, and so they yielded to the only kind of a licentious beast they found willing to pay them money for their virtue.

Nor is that likely to be all of the ghastly story, for the Desplaines street detectives say they are certain that at least six and possibly ten other girls were ruined by this Chinaman, who had enough money to corrupt their starved bodies and souls.

One year ago John Lee Geng was the owner of a chop suey joint at Forty-eighth avenue and Ohio street. He did not make a great deal of money out of the place, but made the acquaintance of a number of white girls who came to his place to eat.

He gave them food such as they never had tasted before; he served them with rice, wine and other strange Oriental liquors; at the be-

ginning he always was polite and forbearing and obsequious.

He kept that policy up until the girls in some degree trusted him, and then offered to show them a room "fitted up in real Chinese fashion, all with wonderful things from the East." The lure of the unknown, curiosity to see these treasures of the East, usually were strong enough to draw unsuspecting girls.

After the Chinaman had drawn the girls into his spider room, that was the end.

When the Chinaman was arraigned the girls were brought in as witnesses. Both were weeping, realizing their bitter shame, sensing the contempt those in the courtroom felt for white girls who had become the mistresses of a Chinaman.

The Chinaman was sullen and ugly. At first he pretended he could not speak English, and only admitted that he did when confronted with evidence that he not only spoke it, but also read and wrote it.

The girls, glancing ever fearfully at the stolid Chinaman, refused to give any evidence in court; they were too ashamed; too mortally frightened of the yellow man who sneeringly was defying the court.

But after the case had been continued until July 8, they talked to detectives. This is what one of the detectives said, a man who is not a professional reformer, but who is old in the knowledge of vice and crime:

"Sure, it's th' old story. Them two kids was workin' for the Western Electric Co. One o' them told me she only got \$6 a week there; I don't know what the other got; maybe it was less; it's a cinch it wasn't more.

"Well, they couldn't live on that; not RIGHT anyhow—you know what I mean—it meant 10-cent breakfasts and no lunches an' cheap, miserable dinners—20 cents a dinner, maybe, an' one thing an' another.